



**Pierre-Olivier Leblanc**

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Pierre-Olivier is Head of Taylor Wessing's Insurance, Industrial Risks and Transport practice in Paris.

He has considerable experience in contentious (re)insurance matters, often with an international element, and general commercial litigation.

He regularly acts on large, complex commercial claims. These include professional indemnity, products liability, industrial risks and re/insurance coverage, defence and subrogation claims in property/business insurance, casualty, energy/power and construction lines. In addition to his contentious work Pierre-Olivier advises on policy wording and on international insurance programmes.

Admitted to the Paris Bar in 2002, Pierre-Olivier holds an LLM in International Economic Law (University of Warwick), a Certificate in English Law (University of Warwick) and a Master's degree in Maritime Law (University of Lille). His command of the legal concepts of civil and common law allows him to be particularly effective in handling cases where both are involved.

Pierre-Olivier is a member of the CEFAREA-ARIAS and of the *Association for the Management of Corporate Risks and Insurance* (AMRAE). He is also a member of the *International Insurance Law Association* (AIDA) and is a member of the *Federation of Defence and Corporate Counsel* (FDCC). He also regularly participates in the work of the Legal Commission of the Association of Professionals of Reinsurance in France (APREF) and to the AMRAE Liability Commission.

Pierre-Olivier is recommended by Legal 500 and is recognized by Chambers and Partners Europe as one of the 25 "ranked lawyers" for Insurance in France. He is also identified for his (re)insurance work by "*The Best Lawyers in France*".

## What clients say about Pierre-Olivier

*Pierre-Olivier Leblanc is identified by clients for his "capacity to analyse and argue in the context of contentious matters." He often acts on insurance litigation with experience in product liability, air accidents, compensation claims and coverage issues. Sources find him to be "extremely knowledgeable, pragmatic and good at understanding the dynamics of a negotiation."* – [Chambers and Partners, Europe 2019](#)

*"Sources value Pierre-Olivier Leblanc 'great strategic thinking'. His wide-ranging practice encompasses industrial risks, energy, shipping and property disputes. He is also skilled at advising clients on policy wording."* – [Chambers and Partners, Europe 2018](#)

*"Pierre Olivier Leblanc has experience in marine, energy, transport and construction matters. He is involved in litigation and arbitration on a national and international level. He is described as "available and responsive" and his clients feel they can "count on him in urgent situations."* – [Chambers and Partners, Europe 2017](#)

*"Pierre-Olivier Leblanc has a large range of skills, from general liability to specific French building liability, a high knowledge of various subjects and a strong involvement in the files."* – [Chambers and Partners, Europe 2016](#)

*"Pierre-Olivier's clients recommend "his sharp analysis, his rigour and the high quality of his work."* – [Legal 500, Paris 2017](#)

*"Pierre-Olivier's clients praise 'his perfect knowledge of his files, his multiple skills in the area of civil and industrial liability and his excellent knowledge of private international law'."* – [Legal 500, Paris 2015](#)

## Recent experience

Defence counsel for a specialist risk control business company which carried out control on mooring shackles alleged to be defective and to have caused damage of up to €40 million to an offshore service provider to the energy industry.

Advising product liability insurers on the coverage of the Grenfell Tower fire (London) including reviewing the international program and dealing with successive insurers issues about coverage.

Defence counsel for a project manager and its professional liability insurers following the under sizing of a high voltage grid and non-compliance of new security installations in a commercial mall in Paris. Advice included court survey proceedings and advising on successive insurer issues (€7 million).

Defending and advising a company who specializes in the control business following the collapse of a ship bridge (one fatality).

Monitoring counsel of professional liability insurers of an EPC contractor involved in a lawsuit in Canada in which the Plaintiff, the employer is seeking damages following the explosion of a refinery (\$1.1 billion).

Providing coverage advice for a pharmaceutical company following the explosion of a hydrogen tank at its plant in China and subsequent business insurance losses (€12 million).

Defence counsel for the supplier of bay windows equipping metro wagons, and its professional and product liability insurers facing a claim for a defective product. Advice included court survey and mediation proceedings (€4.5million).

Leading counsel for a naval shipbuilder and its insurers in their claim against shipbuilders of a surface ship with defective floors (€40 million). This included advising on court survey and administrative proceedings.

Advising marine cargo insurers on war-risk coverage, and their reinsurance cover, following a vast fraud scheme in the Chinese metal market (€450 million).

Advising liability insurers of one of the entities involved in railway test programs during which the derailment of the TGV occurred on the High Speed Line at Eckwesheim in 2015 (11 fatalities). Providing coverage advice for a European owner/warehouse manager, on coverage granted pursuant to his local and master insurance property policies following serious hailstorms and damages to more than ten of its warehouses (€15 million).

Providing coverage advice for a company impacted by Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria in 2018 on business insurance losses (\$4 million).

Advising professional indemnity insurers on the coverage of a claim relating to an insured client facing a recurring loss (about fifty claims) for an alleged failure to provide proper advice as a marketer of property tax optimization products.

Monitoring counsel for product liability insurers of a car manufacturer facing a class-action claim in Israel (€30 million).

Advising director and officer liability insurers on coverage issues following a vast corruption scheme in Quebec (Canada).

Monitoring counsel of product liability and professional indemnity insurers of an alloy supplier facing a €300 million claim from an aircraft manufacturer.

Monitoring counsel for professional indemnity insurers of biological laboratory facing a contractual claim about the world recall of milks powder products (€ 1 billion)

Monitoring counsel for the professional indemnity insurers of an engineering company in the context of a complex dispute with a Danish energy group. The case involved seven ICC arbitration proceedings resulting from various non-performance of the EPC Contract, and subsequent termination of the contract for the construction of an oil platform (\$980 million).

Advising EAR insurers about damages to a transformer on an offshore wind-farm in Germany.

Defence counsel for a general contractor and its decennial liability insurers who were involved in three separate court survey proceedings issued by the employer concerning the construction of two data centers.

Monitoring counsel for product and professional liability insurers of a metal supplies company facing a claim in Italy about alleged defective alloys.

Advising a leading industrial player in the field of marine renewable energies in a dispute with a supplier and CAR insurers.

Advising the professional liability insurers of a contractor following (1) the collapse of a building bordering a real estate project, and (2) the construction on the neighboring ground.

Advising product liability insurers of a can's manufacturer faced with millions of food cans potentially affected by a hidden defect and which had been distributed in supermarkets (\$9Million).

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Advising the product liability and professional liability insurers of a cosmetic group defending a product recall claim from a client in the luxury industry.

Advising professional indemnity insurers on coverage and successive insurer issues following a 'serial loss' involving builders and suppliers of swimming pools. Advice included FFA and GCA arbitration proceedings.

Advising a polish train windows suppliers and their French product liability insurers when facing a defective product claim in Germany about brand new trains (€40million).

Monitoring counsel for professional liability insurers of an energy engineering company facing a claim from the EPC Employer in Abu Dhabi about defective submarine pipelines (\$60 million).

Advising two gold mining companies regarding insurance coverage granted by the fronting insurance company and the London reinsurers following an on-site flood in Africa (\$11 million).

Monitoring counsel for the professional indemnity/insurers of an international testing services provider involved in a US lawsuit in which the plaintiff, a major North American toy distributor, is seeking more than \$120 million in damages for a nationwide recall of a product that sickened several children in 2007.

Monitoring counsel for the professional indemnity/insurers of an international testing services provider facing a claim in the US resulting from defective tests carried on toys gifts placed in food packages (\$32 million).

Advising French credit insurers on drafting a stand-alone insurance policy subject to New York Law relating to a European debt ceding scheme to Dutch banks.

Advising cargo insurers following the loss of four tanks intended to be installed on a dam in Botswana during their marine carriage from to France to South-Africa.

Advising liability insurers of an energy project manager regarding claims issued by the EPC employer of a brownfield refinery project in Algeria (€1.5 billion)

Advising the CAR insurers involved in the building of a new train line in France in their subrogation action against the contractor's professional indemnity insurers.

Advising the charterers of a vessel in Spain under a C/P Orevoy "Standard Ore Charterparty" following the breakdown of an aboard crane. This included reviewing the "Stevedore Damage" clause in relation to demurrage and damages to the vessel.

Monitoring counsel for the professional indemnity insurers of a French company which was party to a contract of 'supervision – technical advice and control' with a Turkish employer regarding a major real estate project in Turkey. The employer is suing the insured in Turkey and claiming €350 million worth of damages.

Assisting the decennial insurers of a private building certifier in a case pending before French administrative and judicial jurisdictions regarding a fire which originated in the technical area of a French underground transport system. Property damage insurers of the public employer are claiming losses of €2 million. This included advice regarding the recourse action against CAR/EAR insurers.

Advising the owners of a fleet of vessels in an arbitration case before the Chambre Arbitrale Maritime de Paris relating to the breach of a Contract of Affreightment (COA) for steel and coal cargoes.

Advising a French manufacturer and its insurers against multimodal carriers and a "commissionnaire de transport" following a loss in transit in Africa during a carriage by sea, rail and road.

Advising the freight forwarder of a cargo loaded in France following the dropping of the cargo in the port of Saint-Nazaire. This included acting in conjunction with owners of the cargo against the stevedores.

Advising the owners of a vessel loaded with 70,000 mt of "moloo bulk coal" under a C/P Amwelsh 93 following the breakdown of a crane due to strong winds in a Brazilian port. Advice included reviewing the C/P in relation to "force majeure", laytime and demurrage.

Advising a French steel manufacturer following a claim brought by an Italian buyer also faced with a claim issued by its German counterpart.